

***By the End of This Week, More than 750,000 Seniors Will Have Received \$250 Checks So Far This Year***

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Today, Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) announced

For Maryland, 1,178 seniors received the rebate in June; 4,325 seniors received it in July; and now 4,660 seniors have received the rebate.

“Prescription drugs cost many people thousands of dollars a year, and for those whose costs exceed a certain amount, the cost can be even higher.”

The checks are just the first benefit from health reform for seniors in the Medicare Prescription Drug program.

The ‘donut hole’ coverage gap is the period in the prescription drug benefit (once their prescription drug costs reach a certain amount).

Medicare recipients don’t have to do anything to get the \$250 check – once their drug costs for the year reach a certain amount.

Making prescription drugs more affordable for seniors is only one of the many benefits for seniors included in the Affordable Care Act.

- Beginning on January 1, 2011, provides that seniors will receive free preventive care services like flu shots, cholesterol tests, and more.
- Strengthens Medicare by extending its solvency by an additional 12 years, from 2017 to 2029.
- Includes Medicare efficiencies, so that experts estimate that seniors can expect to save on average \$1,000 a year.
- Continues to reduce waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare.
- Improves care by helping doctors communicate and coordinate.
- Expands home and community-based services to keep seniors in their home, instead of in nursing homes.

[Click here for more information on the immediate benefits for Maryland of the Affordable Care Act.](#)

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